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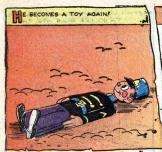




















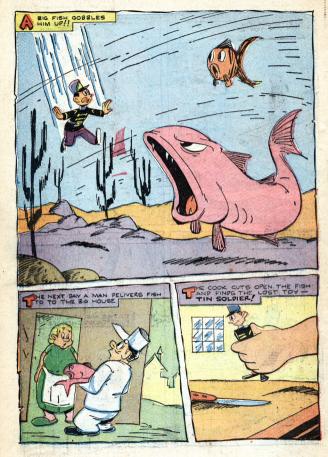














HORAGE









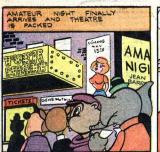
































GOT





SEE FELLOWS, I



















ANYBODY'S GUESS!



MANGMAN VINES

A TWINING PLANT FOUND IN S.W. PART OF COSTA RICA, SAID TO STRANGLE HUMANS

Cyclops

OF THE U.S.MAYY LEFT RIO DE JANEIRO FOR BULTIMORE ... SIGHTED OFF WRGING CAPES ON MAR. 9 1918, THEN DISAPPEARED. A 19-000 TON SHIP WITH 306 SOULS ON BOARD AND WAS LOST WITHOUT A TRACE.

WILD GEESE
MIGRATE FROM NORWAY TO ECYPT
AND RETURN W SPRING, TO THE SAME

The Visitor

OMETIMES the candle flickered, as an orphaned breeze stole through the partly opened window. The streets beyond were dark and empty. Darkened by the night-and emptied by the fear of night. This mattered not to the pair who occupied the small room. One, the man, let his mind and fabled imagination race into the past and mingle with the frightened mobs of history, and their still more frightened masters He wrote of deeds long forgotten. Of men who were kings. And kings who were men. Beggars in the streets of London. Butchers in the streets of Paris. He wrote furiously. His quill flew over page after pagetirelessly - ever painting, inventing, restoring and sometimes distorting, as each leaden hour stumbled into vesterday. He was a worker, this bearded man of a century ago, who defied the pangs of hunger and sleep in order that his work might live. But his sole companion dozed and sometimes yawned.

The writer gazed broodingly at the tips of the red-pink velvet ears. It was almost as though he expected to find the answer to everything in life, the response to all of his conflicting and devastating thoughts, locked somewhere within those ears. Yes, those eyes, magnetic and brilliant with the light of genius, gazed long and steadily at the slightly flickering tips of his cat's ears. But the answer was not there. He signed heavily and turned again to his desk and his papers and his problem. His furry friend turned and stretched, and arched his back, and turned again before settling.

He was bored perhaps, for cats with uncertain ancestry care little for the ways of men. The graceful little animal lay curled upon the writ er's desk. The solitary candle sent crazy little shadows dancing over his copper fur. He yawned, opened his green eyes, looked at his master's deeply lined face, closed his eyes again. and returned to wherever it is that cats go when they enter the land of sleep. Even the sudden burst of gunfire failed to arouse him. Cats, you see, have little imagination.

THE door of the writer's study burst open and a man entered, holding a smoking pistol across his breast much in the manner of a duelist. He looked like something from another world. He was short and unkempt. His ugliness was almost sickening. His face still bore

the ravages of smallpox.

His untidy clothes were covered with dust and soaked with sweat. He had come a long way for this meeting. He had dropped two horses on the fields of France. He had been tossed like a cork on the choppy waters of the Channel. He had ridden another beast to death over the silent fields of England. And nowhis destination.

But what was this? The elderly man at the writing desk seemed quite undisturbed. And his cat slept on without so much as the twitch of a whisker. The Stranger scowled and tightened his finger on the trigger of his pistol. His voice came harsh and cold

"A man fires the lock off your door and you greet him as calmly as you would an expected guest. Are your nerves of steel, or does ice water flow in your British veins?"

"Neither, my friend. I've been expecting you, and your dramatic entrance suits you admirably Quite unnecessary, however. I would gladly have opened the door for you."

The Stranger's face showed his amazement. "You talk in riddles-a language I am un-

familiar with."

The man at the desk smiled pleasantly. "Sit down, Mr. Danton-and tell me the story you came to tell."

"You know my name?"

"Yes, I know your name-and so does history. But get on with your tale. My fingers itch to put it to paper."

HE tale was a violent one-full of the howling blood thirsty mobs of the French Revolution - that monstrous cannibal who so quickly devoured its own children.

The Thing was out of control. Its creators soaked the streets of Paris with blood that sickened all of Europe. Baskets woven by the peasantry caught the perfumed heads of the aristocrats in ever increasing numbers beneath the stained blade of the guillotine. This was a people gone mad with fury and a new found power. The dreaded power of slaves turned upon their masters in History's widdest orgy of murder, plunder and pillage. This was Madame Roland crying out from the depths of her tortured heart:

"Liberty—What crimes are committed in thy name?"

And this was Danton, coming like a ghost from the tomb, to plead the cause of freedom gone wild. He talked on. The kindly bearded man listened and wrote—pausing now and then to run his slender fingers over the soft fur of his pet. The pet neither woke nor stirred — but slumbered on.

"France has given to the World," Mr. Danton went on, "A gift from the very souls of Frenchemen. We have snapped the chains of tyranny which for centuries have given the people of Europe no more freedom than a dog chained to his master's gate. If heads must fall, simben let them fall. France will forever hold her head high."

The writer paused and stroked his beard with

"I am not an historian, Mr. Danton," he remarked, "nor yet a judge for you to plead the justice of your cause. I am interested in your facts only as they provide the background for my work. The righteousness of your fight will be determined by God and History—not by a story teller in the safe seclusion of an English village."

THE terrifying figure of Mr. Danton moved with rapid strides across the dimly lighted room to the window on the opposite side He flung the curtains apart.

"Look at these streets." he roared. "No blood has fallen there. Only the clean rain from your English skies. This is Peace. We had peace in France, too. The peace of chained animate who feed on oppression. That peace has exploded and the very foundations of the earth plave rocked. But are we justified, sir? You have the power of the pen. You can tell the world we are justified. England has long drunk the wine of freedom while Frenchmen die of thirst. Tell your countrymen, sir — and may your words echo through the centuries to come—that the Revolution is an instrument of justice! A sword to flash in the sun wherever free

men live—though the brilliance of its blade be stained with blood."

The speaker paused. His words still drummed into the ears of the man who listened. And the man who listened smiled a trifle and gently stroked his sleeping cat.

"You say I have the power of the pen?" he murmured. "Was not the pen the spark that set off this explosion. Am I to throw gunpowder into a fire that is a lready out of control? Mr. Danton, your visit flatters me. But I am a story teller who deals in fiction—not an apologist—nor one to condemn events and men long dead. My pen would rather tell of the laughter of children, than the tears of Marie-Antoinette."

"Tears?" the visitor shouted. "Do you pity the tears of Antoinette and not the tears of France? I heeded the call of my Country—and of future civilization. I helped create this thing you call The Terror—and I, too, was devoured by its ravenous appetite. I came from the grave to plead with you sir, for understanding and sympathy. Not for me—but for the Things for which I fought. Listen to the pounding of your heart. Pound—pound—pound—like the drums at the foot of the guillotine. It demands you tell the unborn generations yet to come a tale of a new freedom in one land—and support of its ideals in another—a tale of two cities."

The voice did not stop suddenly. It vanushed into nothingness, syllable by syllable—and the man at the writing desk snapped his grey head back and looked about him. The room was empty, safe for him and his feline companion. His door was bolted. Nothing disturbed. The dream visitor from the world beyond had disappeared. He had returned to the vault of history.

E was tred—dreadfully so. But this story must be completed. A few more lines, a few more words of immortal dialogue and the job was done. His pen raced on. It told of a man mounting the steps of the seaf-fold — and pausing as the terrible knife rose toward the sky. He was speaking—not to the mobs—not to man—but to God.

. . .

"I do a far, far better thing that I have ever done. I go to a far, far better rest than I have ever known."

The author dropped his pen. His head fell forward. Over his newly completed manuscript, Charles Dickens fell into a deep and restful sleep. The candle was snuffed out. A cat of uncertain ancestry licked its slightly singed paw.



HAS A WAY OF WARNING WILD LIFE OF IMPENDING DISASTER





















GOT TO BORROW ONE
OF YOUR CANOES, JOSE...
GET SOME OF YOUR MEN
TO PICK UP THE BODY
OF THE DEAD MAN BACK
ALONG THE TRAIL.

UH, SURE. I VERY SURPRISED ABOUT THEES MURDER BEESNUS SO CLOSE TO POST.

















































































































































LATER -- REPOSING IN THE











































































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